

One Stop/Pilot Projects Subcommittee

Status Report

March 2004 Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee

Prepared by Dan Dixon, Subcommittee Chair

Background:

As required by TPEAC's authorizing legislation, the One-Stop/Pilot Projects Subcommittee directed and reviewed development of three research papers documenting barriers and opportunities for: (1) concurrent agency, public comment, and appeal processes, (2) common permit application and data requirements, and (3) coordination of Information Technology systems to support environmental permitting. TPEAC's authorizing legislation also require it to develop and prioritize a list of permit streamlining opportunities, specifically identifying substantive and procedural duplication, and recommendations for resolving those duplications. Over the past three years, the One-Stop/Pilot Projects Subcommittee has been responsible for many of these new initiatives. This report summarizes some of its accomplishment, lessons learned, and outlines the subcommittee's next steps.

Lessons Learned:

The following is a short list of the lessons learned from the One-Stop/Pilot Projects Subcommittee's efforts.

- Interagency coordination for project review and approval takes time, dedication and concerted effort, but ultimately saves time and produces better projects.
- Early review of transportation projects by the regulatory community is essential to permitting efficiency.
- Concurrent agency review and appeals are limited by statutorily defined permitting timelines. In addition, projects that are appealed are unique and limited; few opportunities exist to streamline this effort.
- Information Technology including consistency of data and the electronic sharing of information needs a great deal more effort to realize gains in efficiency.

Subcommittee

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Developed a "One-Stop" permitting process to expedite permitting decisions on large projects:
- ✓ Developed and piloted Interagency Project Teams to coordinate permitting on large projects.
- ✓ Examined issues on data consistency and information sharing.
- ✓ Examined issues on coordinated permit timing.
- ✓ Examined issues on concurrent agencies review and appeals process.
- ✓ Piloted Interagency Project Team Processes on Hood Canal Bridge and SR-24 Bridge Replacement projects.
- ✓ Developed an Interdisciplinary Project Team Guidance manual

Next Steps:

Over the next year, the subcommittee intends to concentrate its efforts on three primary topics:

- 1) Information Technology and Data Consistency: develop on-line permitting tools (permit application, review and tracking), and the development of resource data sets that can be used in making permit decisions.
- 2) Examination of Integrated Permit Documentation: identify a system to document and track project decisions from project conception to completion.
- 3) Development of Permit Application Standards to ensure applications will have complete information needed for approval. This will also serve as a model to guide WSDOT in drafting permit terms and conditions.

Finally, the One Stop Permitting/Pilot Projects Subcommittee is changing its name to more accurately reflect its work. This subcommittee will be known as the Permit Delivery Subcommittee.